

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are hereby canceled. Claims 21-24 are new. No new material has been added.

Drawings

A copy of the formal drawings are submitted herewith. Approval by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

Abstract

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to conform with newly added independent claim 21.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

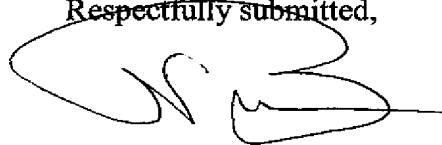
The Office Action has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitomi (U.S. Patent No. 6,640,082) in view of Rapkin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,657,754). This rejection is respectfully traversed by the claims, as amended.

The Specification (page 3 lines 20 - 26 and Figure 3) describes a removable image guide with an upgrade feature that provides a manifold (33) as a series of channels with holes cut in the removable image guides (11, 12). The manifold can remove dust but can also be used to apply pressure or vacuum for maintaining the document in close contact with the image guide. The use of a manifold can thus minimize mottling in the image (page 3, line 26).

This feature of a manifold configured as part of a replaceable image guide upgrade is not shown or suggested in either the Mitomi '082 or Rapkin et al. '754 disclosures. No mention can be found in these patents for using differential pressure or vacuum along the document transport path or for modifying a replaceable component in order to suitably adapt the document transport path for a change in vacuum or pressure level. This feature allows modification of document handling in the transport path as a simple upgrade for a scanner.

It is believed that the claims, as amended, are allowable and that these amendments is truly responsive to the objections raised in the Office Action dated December 6, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'N. A. Blish', written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.